



## Ready or not, election season in the U.S. is about to start. The first ballots will go out within days

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It might feel like the presidential election is still a long way off. It's not.

Election Day on Nov. 5 is only about two months away, and major dates, events and political developments will make it fly by. The stretch between now and then will go as fast as summer break from school in most parts of the country.

The first mail ballots will be sent to voters this Friday. The first presidential debate is set for Sept. 10. Former President Donald Trump, the Republican nominee, is scheduled to be sentenced in his New York hush money case on Sept. 18. And early in-person voting will start as soon as Sept. 20 in some states. Here's a look at why the calendar will move quickly, with the Democratic and Republican conventions over and Labor Day signaling the traditional start of campaign season.



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Voters fill in their ballots for Florida's primary election in South Miami, Fla., Aug. 20, 2024.

Associated Press



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# Ready or not, election season in the U.S. is about to start. The first ballots will go out within days

Continued from Front

## Who's ready to vote?

The first batch of ballots typically sent out are ones to military and overseas voters. Under federal law, that must happen at least 45 days before an election — which this year is Sept. 21.

Some states start earlier. North Carolina will begin sending mail ballots to all voters who request them, including military personnel and overseas voters, on Sept. 6.

Voter registration deadlines vary by state, with most falling between eight and 30 days before the election, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. The deadline is Oct. 7 in Georgia, one of this year's most prominent presidential battlegrounds. Nearly all states offer some version of in-person voting, though the rules and dates vary considerably. In Pennsylvania, another of the major presidential battleground states, voters can visit their local election office to request, complete and return a mail ballot beginning Sept. 16. For those counting, that's a little over two weeks from now.

## The gloves come off

Whether, where and under what rules the Democratic and Republican presidential and vice presidential nominees will debate has been a point of contention for weeks. But for now, two match-ups are on the calendar.

Trump and Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris have accepted an invitation from ABC News to debate Sept. 10 in Philadelphia.

Harris' pick for vice president, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, and Trump's, Ohio Sen. JD Vance, have agreed to an Oct. 1 debate hosted by CBS News in New York City.

Harris has forecast a possible second debate with Trump, but her proposal appeared to be contingent on the GOP nominee's participation in the



Voters fill in their ballots for Florida's primary election in South Miami, Fla., Aug. 20, 2024.

Associated Press

Sept. 10 debate. Trump has proposed three presidential debates with different television networks.

Vance has challenged Walz to another vice presidential debate on Sept. 18, although it's not been set.

## A possible criminal sentence for Trump

Trump is scheduled to be sentenced Sept. 18 in his hush money criminal case, though his lawyers have asked the judge to delay the proceeding until after Election Day. A decision is expected early this month. In a letter to Judge Juan M. Merchan, Trump's lawyers suggested that holding the sentencing as scheduled, about seven weeks before Election Day, would amount to election interference. On Sept. 16, Merchan is expected to rule on Trump's request to overturn the guilty verdict and dismiss the case because of the U.S. Supreme Court's July presidential immunity ruling.

Trump was convicted in May on 34 counts of falsifying business records to conceal a \$130,000 hush money payment to porn actor Stormy Daniels just before the 2016 presidential election. Falsifying business records is punishable

by up to four years in prison. Other potential sentences include probation, a fine or a conditional discharge that would require Trump to stay out of trouble to avoid additional punishment.

## Next steps in Trump's other New York cases

On Friday, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will hear arguments in Trump's appeal of a jury's verdict last year ordering him to pay \$5 million to writer E. Jean Carroll after it found him liable for sexually assaulting and defaming her. Trump also is appealing a verdict in a second trial in January in which a jury found him liable on additional defamation claims and ordered him to pay Carroll \$83.3 million. Trump's lawyers have until Sept. 13 to file a brief in that appeal. On Sept. 26, a New York appeals court will hear oral arguments in Trump's challenge of a nearly \$500 million civil fraud judgment in state Attorney General Letitia James' lawsuit against him. The court typically rules about a month after arguments, meaning a decision could come before the November election. Trump's lawyers argue that a judge's Feb. 16 finding that the former presi-

dent lied for years about his wealth as he built his real estate empire was "erroneous" and "egregious." State lawyers responded in court papers this week that there's "overwhelming evidence" to support the verdict.

## What about Trump's election and document cases?

A state case in Georgia that charged Trump and 18 others in a wide-ranging scheme to overturn his 2020 loss in the state is stalled with no chance of going to trial before the election.

Federal prosecutors have brought two criminal cases against Trump, but one was dismissed by a judge last month and the other is likely to be reshaped by the recent U.S. Supreme Court opinion that conferred broad immunity on former presidents for official acts they take in office.

Special counsel Jack Smith has appealed the dismissal by U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon of an indictment charging Trump with hoarding classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida and obstructing the FBI's efforts to get them back. But even if a federal appeals court reinstates the case and reverses the judge's ruling that Smith's

appointment was unconstitutional, there's no chance of a trial taking place this year.

In light of the Supreme Court's immunity ruling, a federal judge in Washington is now tasked with deciding which allegations in a separate case charging Trump with plotting to overturn the 2020 election can remain part of the prosecution and which ones must be discarded. Deciding which acts are official and which are not is likely to be an arduous process.

## Fights over voting and the election

Before the first ballots are even cast, both camps are gearing up to fight over voting.

Battles over election rules have become a staple of American democracy, but they're expected to reach new heights this year. Trump installed his own leadership team at the Republican National Committee, including a director of election integrity who helped him try to overturn Biden's win in 2020. The RNC has filed a blizzard of lawsuits challenging voting rules and promises that more are on the way.

Democrats also are mobilizing and assembling a robust legal team. Among other things, they are objecting to GOP efforts to remove some inactive voters or noncitizens from voter rolls, arguing that legal voters will get swept up in the purges.

Republicans have particularly escalated their rhetoric over the specter of noncitizens voting, even though repeated investigations have shown it almost never happens. Some also are pushing to give local election boards the ability to refuse to certify election results.

All indications are these efforts are laying the groundwork for Trump to again claim the election was stolen from him if he loses and to try to overturn the will of the voters. But there's no way to know if that will happen until the ballots are cast. □



# U.S. government seizes plane used by Venezuelan president, citing sanctions violations

By ERIC TUCKER, REGINA GARCIA CANO and JOSHUA GOODMAN

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The U.S. government has seized a luxury jet used by Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro that officials say was illegally purchased through a shell company and smuggled out of the United States in violation of sanctions and export control laws.

The Dassault Falcon 900EX was seized in the Dominican Republic and transferred to the custody of federal officials in Florida, the Justice Department said Monday. The plane landed at Ft. Lauderdale Executive Airport shortly before noon Monday, according to flight tracking websites.

U.S. officials say associates of the Venezuelan leader in late 2022 and early 2023 used a Caribbean-based shell company to hide their involvement in the purchase of the plane, valued at the time at \$13 million, from a company in Florida. The plane was then exported from the U.S. to Venezuela, through the Caribbean, in April 2023 in a transaction meant to circumvent an executive order that bars U.S. persons from business transactions with representatives of the Maduro regime.

The plane, registered to San Marino, was widely used by Maduro for foreign travel, in-



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, left, and first lady Cilia Flores arrive at Beijing Capital International Airport in Beijing, China, Sept. 1, 2015.

cluding in trips earlier this year to Guyana and Cuba. It was also involved in a December swap on a Caribbean airstrip of several Americans jailed in Venezuela for a close Maduro ally, Alex Saab, imprisoned in the U.S. on money laundering charges. Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement that it had been smuggled out of the U.S. for use by "Maduro and his cronies."

State media footage from a December visit to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines shows Maduro, First Lady Cilia Flores, and senior officials get-

ting off the airplane ahead of a day of discussions over a territory dispute between Venezuela and neighboring Guyana.

"Let this seizure send a clear message: aircraft illegally acquired from the United States for the benefit of sanctioned Venezuelan officials cannot just fly off into the sunset," Matthew Axelrod, an assistant secretary for export enforcement in the Commerce Department, said in a statement.

CNN first reported the plane seizure. The seizure announcement comes just over a

month after ruling party-loyal electoral authorities declared Maduro the victor in presidential elections without showing any detailed results to back up their claim. The lack of transparency has drawn international condemnation. Meanwhile, the opposition managed to obtain more than 80% of vote tally sheets showing Maduro lost by a wide margin against former diplomat Edmundo González. The plane was previously registered in the U.S. and owned by Lorida, Florida-based Six G Aviation, a broker that buys and sells used aircraft.

FAA records indicate it was exported to St. Vincent and the Grenadines and de-registered in the U.S. in January 2023.

Gary Gwynn, owner of Six G, declined to comment. "I've been instructed by the FBI not to speak to anyone," he said when contacted by The Associated Press.

In March, it flew to the Dominican Republic, along with a Venezuelan-registered plane, for what was believed to be maintenance, never to leave again.

Monday's action follows the U.S. government's earlier seizure in Argentina of a Boeing 747-300 cargo plane transferred from Iran to a subsidiary of Venezuela's state-owned airlines. Federal prosecutors have also seized several private jets belonging to top government officials and insiders who have been either sanctioned or indicted in the U.S.

The U.S. has sanctioned 55 Venezuelan-registered planes, mostly belonging to state-owned oil giant PDVSA. It's also offered a \$15 million bounty for the arrest of Maduro to face federal drug trafficking charges in New York.

The Venezuelan government's centralized press office did not immediately return a message from The Associated Press seeking comment Monday. □

Associated Press

# Titanic expedition yields lost bronze statue, high-resolution photos and other discoveries

By PATRICK WHITTLE

Associated Press

A bronze statue from the Titanic not seen in decades and feared to be lost for good is among the discoveries made by the company with salvage rights to the wreck site on its first expedition there in many years.

RMS Titanic Inc., a Georgia-based company that holds the legal rights to the 112-year-old wreck, has completed its first trip since 2010 and released images from the expedition on Monday. The pictures show a site that continues to change

more than a century later. The trip to the remote corner of the North Atlantic Ocean where the Titanic sank happened as the U.S. Coast Guard investigates the June 2023 implosion of the Titan, an experimental submersible owned by a different company. The Titan submersible disaster killed all five people on board, including Paul-Henri Nargeolet, who was director of underwater research for RMS Titanic.

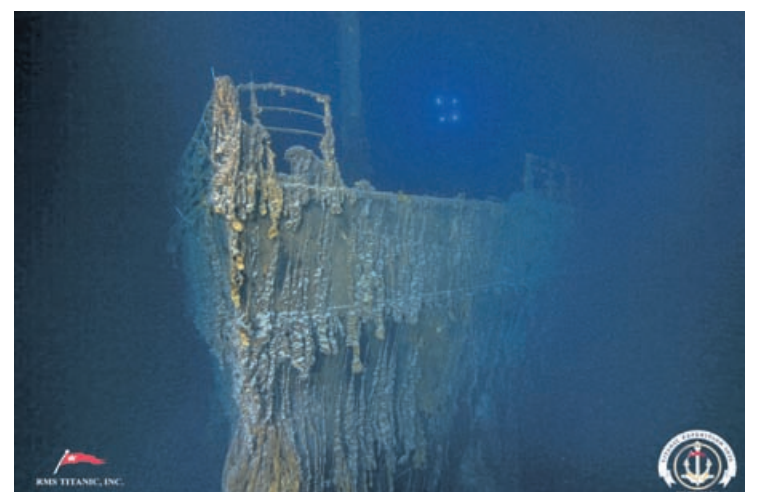
The findings from this summer's trip "showcase a bittersweet mix of preservation

and loss," RMS Titanic said in a statement. A highlight was the rediscovery of the statue "Diana of Versailles," last seen in 1986, and the statue now has a clear and updated image, the company said.

On a sadder note, a significant section of the railing that surrounds the ship bow's forecastle deck has fallen, RMS Titanic said.

The railing still stood as recently as 2022, the company said.

"The discovery of the statue of Diana was an exciting moment. □



This image released on Monday, Sept. 2, 2024, shows the bow of the Titanic with a large section of the deck railing now missing photographed this summer by a company with salvage rights to the wreck site on its first expedition there in many years.

Associated Press



# Christa McAuliffe, still pioneering, is first woman with a statue on New Hampshire capitol grounds

By **KATHY McCORMACK**  
Associated Press

**CONCORD, N.H. (AP)** — Decades after she was picked to be America's first teacher in space, Christa McAuliffe is still a pioneer — this time as the first woman to be memorialized on the grounds of New Hampshire's Statehouse, in the city where she taught high school.

McAuliffe was 37 when she was killed, one of the seven crew members aboard the Challenger when the space shuttle broke apart on live TV on Jan. 28, 1986. She didn't have the chance to give the lessons she had planned to teach from space. But people are still learning from her. Benjamin Victor, the sculptor from Boise, Idaho, whose work was unveiled on Monday on what would have been McAuliffe's 76th birthday, said McAuliffe's "inspiration hasn't been lost in the disaster and her memory will go on forever."

Steven McAuliffe, her former husband, said Christa McAuliffe was proud to represent teachers and would be enthusiastic about being honored "as long as it was shared with all teachers and educators."

"It is a great honor for Christa. And at the same time it is a great and deserving honor for teachers and edu-



This Sept. 26, 1985 photo made available by NASA shows astronaut Christa McAuliffe.

Associated Press

cators across this country," he said. "I hope teachers everywhere will come and see it. I hope they take pride in their noble work. I hope that students will come and see. And I hope that they will be inspired to pursue their dreams," he said.

The 8-foot-tall (2.4-meter) bronze, depicting McAuliffe walking in stride in a NASA flight suit, is believed to be the first full statue of McAuliffe, known for her openness to experimental learning. Her motto was: "I touch the fu-

ture, I teach."

Gov. Chris Sununu's executive order enabled the McAuliffe statue to join statues of leaders such as Daniel Webster, John Stark and President Franklin Pierce. He said Monday that he's eager for schoolchildren who visit the Statehouse each year to see the statue honoring "our hero teacher" and reflect on all that's possible.

McAuliffe was picked from among 11,000 candidates to be the first teacher and private citizen in space. Be-

yond a public memorial at the Statehouse plaza on Jan. 31, 1986, the Concord school district and the city, population 44,500, have observed the Challenger anniversary quietly through the years, partly to respect the privacy of her family. Christa and Steven McAuliffe's son and daughter were very young at the time she died and was buried in a local cemetery. Steven McAuliffe, who was then a lawyer and now is a federal judge, wanted the children to grow up in the

community normally.

But there are other memorials, dozens of schools and a library named for McAuliffe, as well as scholarships and a commemorative coin. A science museum in Concord is dedicated to her and to native son Alan Shepard, the first American in space. The auditorium is named for her at Concord High School, where she taught American history, law, economics and a self-designed course called "The American Woman." Students rush past a painting of her in her astronaut uniform.

In 2017-2018, two educators-turned-astronauts at the International Space Station recorded some of the lessons that McAuliffe had planned to teach, on Newton's laws of motion, liquids in microgravity, effervescence and chromatography. NASA then posted "Christa McAuliffe's Lost Lessons" online, a resource for students everywhere.

Victor, the sculptor, comes from a family of educators, including his mother, with whom he's shared a number of discussions about McAuliffe as he's worked on the statue — including his recollection of watching the Challenger disaster on television as a second-grader in Bakersfield, California. □

## Labor Day hotel strikes reflect the frustrations of a workforce largely made up of women of color

By **DEE-ANN DURBIN**  
AP Business Writer

More than 10,000 workers at 25 U.S. hotels were on strike Monday after choosing Labor Day weekend to amplify their demands for higher pay, fairer workloads and the reversal of COVID-era cuts.

The UNITE HERE union, which represents the striking housekeepers and other hospitality workers, said 200 workers at the Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor were the latest to walk off the job.

Nearly half of the striking workers or 5,000 — are in Honolulu. Thousands of workers are also on strike in Boston, San Francisco, Seattle, San Diego and San Jose, California. The strikes targeting Marriott, Hilton and Hyatt hotels were set to last one to three days.

UNITE HERE said a total of 15,000 workers have voted to authorize strikes, which

could soon spread to other cities, including New Haven, Connecticut; Oakland, California; and Providence, Rhode Island. Union President Gwen Mills says the strikes are part of long-standing battle to secure family-sustaining compensation for service workers on par with more traditionally male-dominated industries.

"Hospitality work overall is undervalued, and it's not a coincidence that it's disproportionately women and people of color doing the work," Mills said.

Unionized housekeepers want to reinstate automatic daily room cleaning at major hotel chains, saying they have been saddled with unmanageable workloads, or in many cases, fewer hours and a decline in income. Many hotels cut services during the coronavirus pandemic and never restored them. □



Hotel workers picket outside the Westin St. Francis Monday, Sept. 2, 2024, in San Francisco.

Associated Press



# A Pakistani religious leader is tried in his absence for allegedly threatening Geert Wilders

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

SCHIPHOL, Netherlands (AP)

— Prosecutors demanded a 14-year sentence Monday for a Pakistani Muslim leader accused of inciting the murder of anti-Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders, the leader of the party that won last year's general election in the Netherlands.

Muhammad Ashraf Asif Jalali did not appear for trial at a closely guarded courtroom near Amsterdam as prosecutors accused him of abusing his position as a religious leader to call on followers to hang or behead Wilders.

In a second case, prosecutors sought a six-year sentence against a second Pakistani man, Saad Rizvi, for incitement or threatening a terrorist crime against Wilders.

Rizvi also did not show up for his trial.

Neither of the men is believed to be in the country, and Pakistan has no extradition agreement with the Netherlands. Prosecutors said in a statement that requests they sent to Pakistani



**Anti-Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders, takes his seat at the high security court at Schiphol, near Amsterdam, Netherlands, Monday, Sept. 2, 2024, where two Pakistani men go on trial, likely in their absence, on charges of threatening anti-Islam lawmaker Wilders, whose Party for Freedom won national elections last year.**

authorities seeking legal assistance to serve subpoenas on the two men were not executed.

They are the latest Dutch trials for Muslims who have threatened Wilders' life, forcing him to live under around-the-clock police protection for nearly 20 years because of his outspoken criticism of

Islam.

Last year, a former Pakistani cricketer, Khalid Latif, was sentenced to 12 years in prison over allegations that he had offered a reward for the death of Wilders. Latif also did not appear for trial. In 2019, a Pakistani man was arrested in the Netherlands, convicted and sentenced

to 10 years for preparing a terrorist attack on Wilders, who is sometimes called the Dutch Donald Trump.

In a statement to the court, Wilders told judges of the impact of the threats on his life, that has been lived under intense security since 2004. Two armed military police sat in court throughout the

brief trial.

"Every day you get up and leave for work in armored cars, often with sirens on, and you are always aware somewhere in the back of your mind that this could be your last day," Wilders told the court.

"I'm 60 now, I haven't been free since I was 40," he added.

While Jalali is not likely to ever serve a sentence if he is convicted, Wilders said he hoped the case would send a message to him and the world that issuing death threats would not be accepted.

A prosecutor, who asked not to be identified for security reasons, told judges that the threats began to be aired on social media after Wilders' announcement that he was organizing a competition for cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad in 2018.

The planned contest sparked angry protests in Pakistan and elsewhere in the Muslim world in 2018. Physical depictions of the prophet are forbidden in Islam and deeply offensive to Muslims. □

Associated Press

# Mexico finds the devil is in the details with laws against gender-based attacks on women politicians

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — In a U.S. electoral campaign punctuated by jibes about "childless cat ladies," some might wish there were rules against mocking candidates just because of their gender. Mexico, which just elected its first female president, has such a law, but it turns out it's not as easy as all that.

The debate centers around a hard-fought race between two female candidates for a Mexico City borough presidency. An electoral court overturned an opposition candidate's victory, ruling that she had committed "gender-based political violence" against the losing, ruling-party candidate. Outgoing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador suggested Monday the ruling could create

a dangerous precedent, even though the losing candidate belonged to his own Morena party.

"We should be careful about this," López Obrador said. "When insults, real or imagined, can be cause, or could be a cause, for overturning or nullifying a victory, that is something else altogether."

The dispute arose after opposition Alessandra Rojo won a narrow victory over Morena's Caty Monreal in the race for the borough that includes downtown Mexico City. During the campaign, Rojo brought up the fact that Monreal's father, Ricardo Monreal, is a leading Morena party politician, suggesting she may have been the candidate because of her dad's influence.

The court ruled last week that the comment violated a Mexican electoral law that prohibits "slandering, insulting or seeking to disqualify a female candidate based on gender stereotypes," in this case, beliefs that women succeed in politics based on their husbands' or fathers' political power. It brings up obvious comparisons to U.S. politics, and the digs by Ohio Sen. JD Vance, the Republican Vice presidential candidate, about "childless cat ladies" with allegedly no stake in America's future. It is unclear whether that could be perceived as a dig at Vice President Kamala Harris. But critics say the fact that Caty Monreal had little political experience or that her father appears to treat politics as a

family business (his brother now holds the Zacatecas state governorship that Ricardo Monreal once held) could be legitimate points to make. It also brought

up uncomfortable aspects of limits on free speech, or how one female can be accused of committing gender violence against another. □



**Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador raises the hand of Claudia Sheinbaum, the ruling party's presidential candidate, during a ceremony to give her the party's command staff in Mexico City, Sept. 7, 2023.**

Associated Press



# Brazil Supreme Court panel unanimously upholds judge's decision to block X nationwide

By DAVID BILLER and GABRIELA SÁ PESSOA  
Associated Press

**RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)** — A Brazilian Supreme Court panel on Monday unanimously upheld the decision of one of its justices to block billionaire Elon Musk's social media platform X nationwide, according to the court's website. The broader support among justices undermines the effort by Musk and his supporters to cast Justice Alexandre de Moraes as an authoritarian renegade who is intent on censoring political speech in Brazil.

The panel that voted in a virtual session was comprised of five of the full bench's 11 justices, including de Moraes, who last Friday ordered the platform blocked for refusing to name a local legal representative, as required by law. It will stay suspended until it complies with his orders and pays outstanding fines that as of last week exceeded \$3 million, according to his decision. The platform has clashed with de Moraes over its reluctance to block users, and has alleged that de Moraes wants an in-country legal representative so that Brazilian authorities can exert leverage over the company by having someone to arrest.



Ana Claudia, a salesperson at a cell phone case store located inside the bus station, shows the last X post she received before the social media platform was blocked nationwide in Brasilia, Brazil, Monday, Sept. 2, 2024.

De Moraes also set a daily fine of 50,000 reais (\$8,900) for people or companies using virtual private networks, or VPNs, to access X. Some legal experts questioned the grounds for that decision and how it would be enforced, including Brazil's bar association, which said it would request the Supreme Court review that provision.

But the majority of the panel upheld the VPN fine with one

justice opposing unless users are shown to be using X to commit crimes.

Brazil is one of the biggest markets for X, with tens of millions of users. Its block marked a dramatic escalation in a monthslong feud between Musk and de Moraes over free speech, far-right accounts and misinformation. Over the weekend, many X users in Brazil said they felt disconnected from the

world and began migrating en masse to alternative platforms, like Bluesky and Threads. "He violated the constitution of Brazil repeatedly and egregiously, after swearing an oath to protect it," Musk wrote in the hours before the vote, adding a flurry of insults and accusations in the wake of the panel's vote. On Sunday, Musk announced the creation of an X account to

publish the justice's decisions that he said would show they violated Brazilian law.

But legal experts have said such claims don't hold water, noting in particular that de Moraes' peers have repeatedly endorsed his rulings as they did on Monday. Although his actions are viewed by experts as legal, they have sparked some debate over whether one man has been afforded too much power, or if his rulings should have more transparency.

De Moraes' decision to quickly refer his order for panel approval served to obtain "collective, more institutional support that attempts to depersonalize the decision," Conrado Hübner, a constitutional law expert at the University of Sao Paulo, told The Associated Press.

It is standard for a justice to refer such cases to a five-justice panel, Hübner said. In exceptional cases, the justice also could refer the case to the full bench for review. Had de Moraes done the latter, two justices who have questioned his decisions in the past and were appointed by former right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro would have had the opportunity to object or hinder the vote's advance. □

Associated Press

# Protesters in Nigeria face possible death penalty as accusation of treason brings outrage

By DYEPAKAZAH SHIBAYAN  
Associated Press

**ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)** — At least 10 protesters in Nigeria faced a possible death penalty on Monday after being charged with treason over their participation in recent demonstrations against the country's worst-in-a-generation economic crisis. The protesters were arraigned in the capital, Abuja, and accused of acting "with intent to destabilize Nigeria ... and intimidate the president" during the protests. They pleaded not guilty and will remain in prison until a Sept. 11 bail hearing. A British citizen was named among the suspects still at large. The

British High Commission did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Nigeria police spokesman

Muyiwa Adejobi accused Andrew Wynne of working with the protesters as a foreign mercenary and build-

ing "a network of sleeper cells to topple the government and plunge the nation into chaos." He did not provide any evidence to back up the claim.

At least 22 protesters were shot dead by security forces during the demonstrations, Amnesty International has said. Authorities have denied it. The Associated Press confirmed at least three killings.

Little is known about the fate of hundreds of other protesters arrested.

There have been growing concerns in Nigeria about human rights abuses under the government of President Bola Tinubu, who was elected last year after

promising positive change. The protesters were charged under Nigeria's Penal Code, which critics have described as one of the country's harshest laws and one used by authorities to clamp down on dissent. The treason charge carries the death penalty. The trial was widely condemned in Nigeria.

"Some of the charges show how far Nigerian authorities can go in misusing the criminal justice system to silence critical voices. These are blatantly trumped-up charges that must be immediately withdrawn," Amnesty country director Isa Sanusi said in a statement. □



Protesters stand in a cell after a court hearing in Abuja, Nigeria, Monday, Sept. 2, 2024.

Associated Press



## A guide for the perfect picture

# Where to find the most Instagrammable places in Oranjestad

(Oranjestad)—Imagine, you're taking a stroll in the city center, and you want to take the most picture-perfect photo to show your friends and family back home and online. It seems like the perfect spot can be hard to find, but Oranjestad is full of great spots for a quick snapshot! Here are the most Instagrammable places in Oranjestad.

### "I LOVE ARUBA"



Right on Paardenbaai Plaza, near the harbor entrance, you will spot a giant sign that reads "I LOVE ARUBA". A great first stop for a quick shot with the family, this spot is among the few that has become a favorite among tourists, especially those that are visiting Aruba through a cruise vacation.

### The sitting bull



Yes, you read that right; right in the heart of the city center, in front of the Crystal Casino in the Renaissance Mall, there is a black bull sitting on a bench, waiting for you to take a picture with it. Ok, so it's not a real bull, but "I took a pic-



ture with a sitting bull" sounds like a great conversation opener.

See if you can also spot the cow on the roof!

### Wooden Swing on Plaza Daniel Leo

While you're in front of the Renaissance Mall, check out the wooden swing on the other side of the mall on Plaza Daniel Leo. Another favorite among visitors wanting a cute snapshot for Instagram. Just pass through the Renaissance Mall and find this gem in front of the back entrance!

Since you've made it this far, one question: How many blue horses have you spotted already?

### Renaissance Dock

Last but certainly not least, the Renaissance Dock is the perfect spot to take a beautiful picture, especially at sunset. The dock is located behind the Renaissance Market Place, and runs from the Renaissance Marina up to Renaissance Beach and Wilhelmina Park. This spot offers a gorgeous view of the ocean and sunset, accompanied by the soft waves crashing on the shoreline. You may even spot some iguanas! □



## Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

**NOORD - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.**

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to

30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass."

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry! Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass

is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to

find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day! Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □









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## Aruban legends: Frenchman's Pass

(Oranjestad)—If you ever plan on taking a group tour of the island, you may pass through the Frenchman's Pass in Balashi. The Frenchman's pass (known to locals as "Franse Pas") remains a mysterious—and spooky—road of which its legend is told from generation to generation.

The history of the French-

man's pass—and how it got its name—dates back to the colonization era, when the French tried to colonize the island, but were met with an angry mob of indigenous settlers, refusing to give up their land. However, as the French were heavily equipped with fire arms, the indigenous settlers began to retreat, and hid away in nearby caves. The French colonizers tried

to smoke them out of the caves, but the indigenous settlers ended up inhaling too much smoke and most died in those caves. From then on, this passage was known as Frenchman's Pass, and there have been many accounts of spirits roaming the area of Spanish Lagoon. There are many ghost stories surrounding this area, but one of the most famous one



involves a lonely hitchhiker, trying to find a ride back home in the dark rainy night.

Sometime after trying to hitchhike, the man saw a car approaching, appearing almost ghost-like in the rain. However, since he needed a ride real bad, he didn't think twice and jumped in. But to his horror, he noticed that there was no driver in the front. Paralyzed with fear, he didn't dare to get out, and the car started to move.

When approaching a sharp turn, the hitch hiker braced for impact, but just when he thought the car might drive straight off the road and crash, he saw a hand appear out the window and turn the wheel. For the next few turns, the hand appeared again. After having had enough, the man decided to jump out and he

ran to Santa Cruz.

Arriving at a nearby bar, he ordered a drink and began to tell everyone about his experience. Everyone grew quiet, because they realized he wasn't some drunk messing around; he was telling the truth.

Sometime later, two men walked into the bar and one of them noticed the hitchhiker. He called out to his buddy and said: "Look, there's the idiot who sat in our car when we were pushing it!"

French man's pass is one of the few sites on the island that keeps the locals on their toes. While most ghost stories may not have real grounds—or some may even be a set up story for a joke, this pass contributes a lot to our culture of folkloric story-telling. □

Source: [visitaruba.com](http://visitaruba.com)

Experience Aruban culture with this exciting theme night featuring a Carnival show, mixology bar, local artists and more. You can sample Aruban cuisine, including delicious BBQ options with a tropical twist. A local brass band will be performing, and you can pose with elaborately dressed Carnival dancers for a memorable photo op as well, so don't miss it.

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## Second Edition of "Island Fest Aruba" in San Nicolas a Success!

The second edition of "Island Festival Aruba", which took place August 28th, seemed to have been another hit event for the community in San Nicolas. San Nicolas is considered the cultural capital and has the honor of hosting this main festival at the end of every month, promoting Aruba's gastronomy, music, and art.

Island Fest Aruba is a new festival for San Nicolas, where everyone can come and enjoy, with no entrance fee, more than 15 different food and sweets stands, and handicrafts. There are also colorful folkloric shows.

This concept was introduced by Minister Oduber to elevate the quality of the festival that was previously organized. It brings a distinct version to showcase Aruba, its people, and its traditions in a unique way.

During the event, Minister Dangui Oduber visited all the stands to experience the gastronomy, with a variety of typical Aruban dishes. Minister Dangui Oduber expressed that he is pleased with the success of Island Fest Aruba, where there was a diverse lineup of music, including Tipico Tradicional Musical, Honeypot, and Buleria, creating a very lively atmosphere.

The minister also extended his congratulations and gratitude to the Island Fest Aruba team for once again executing a successful event that attracted many visitors and had an excellent atmosphere. At the same time, he thanks the board and all the vendors for believing in this new concept that brings traffic to San Nicolas.

The next Island Fest event takes place September 25, 2024. □





# The stories of “Compa Nanzi”

**(Oranjestad)—The most popular character you may hear about in the Caribbean is Anansi, known locally on Aruba as “Compa Nanzi”. Local children grew up hearing the tales of the conniving spider, and his legacy forms part of the oral narrative tradition that is common in Aruba.**

Although the stories are most popular in the Caribbean, “Compa Nanzi” is not entirely unknown globally, especially not in the West African region. Brought to the “new world” by enslaved Africans from Ghana, the historical thread of how Nanzi was introduced on Aruba follows the enslaved Africans in Curaçao during the colonial era, which saw the biggest population of enslaved Africans in the Dutch Caribbean.

The stories of Compa Nanzi were a sign of hope for freedom among the slaves, who passed around different stories involving the famous spider through word of mouth, due to not being able to express their native culture in the new world. These stories were a way to not only preserve their culture, but it acted as a medium for relief during the

harsh treatment to which they were subjected to. It wasn't until the end of the nineteenth century that the stories of Nanzi were written down in different languages. However, not all stories are completely alike in every country, as is the risk of oral story telling. However, one thing will always be dominant in Compa Nanzi's stories: his sneaky ways to get what he wants!

## How Nanzi fooled the king

One day Nanzi was taking a stroll near the castle of Shon Arei, the king. He had this sudden urge to walk in. He didn't think too much about it and committed to what he had in mind. It was a warm afternoon, and the castle personnel were taking their afternoon nap. Even the soldier guarding the castle door was fast asleep, snoring so loud that his beard bounced up and down on his chin. Nanzi just slipped past him, looked back for a moment then walk right on in.

Nanzi stumbled upon the king's quarters. With all his excitement he sat in the king's throne, and put on his crown that was hanging on the side of the throne. It was very hot that day, and it wasn't long until Nanzi

too fell asleep, right there on the king's throne. He was so deep in sleep and snoring so loud, that even when the king found him in his seat, Nanzi did not even notice.

Shon Arei was flabbergasted by the sight of Nanzi on his throne, wearing his crown. How disrespectful! “Soldiers, get him!” he commanded. Nanzi was sound asleep, but when the soldiers picked him up, he jumped from fright. By then though, the soldier already had him in their hold. “Put him in a sack, stitch it up and throw him in the ocean!” the king said furiously. Two soldiers immediately entered the chamber, took the crown off Nanzi's head and pushed him in a sack.

Nanzi was terrified; it looks like this time he won't get away with his schemes. To get to the ocean, the soldier walked a long distance, and where beginning to feel very thirsty. Luckily they passed by a pub, and decided to have a nice cold beer. They set the sack with Nanzi in it outside and went to enjoy the refreshments. Nanzi was still trembling with fear in the sack.

What is that he hears? A



herd of sheep walking by? “Compadre, listen here!” Nanzi screamed as loud as he could. The sheep herder got close to the sack. “What is this?”

“Man, there is something very beautiful in here that you can see. It's very rare and strange, but indeed, there is something so beautiful in here that you've never seen or will ever see,” Nanzi told the herder. The herder, very dumb, believed Nanzi's word. “Let me see!” he said.

“Well if you must insist,” Nanzi said, “I'll let you take a look, but only for a quick second.” The herder opened the sack, and Nanzi immediately jumped out. Before the herder could even take a look into the sack, Nanzi pushed him in it, and the herder fell head first in.

Nanzi didn't waste any time, and closed off the sack real tight. He then picked up the herder's hat and starting walking behind the traveling sheep as if nothing happened. After a little while, the soldiers headed back outside to continue their journey. As they picked up the sack, the poor herder started screaming to let him out, but the soldiers ignored him, thinking it was Nanzi.

Shon Arei went strolling a while later. He thought to himself: “This time Nanzi could not get away with

his foolishness. He probably drowned in that sack ages ago.” That is why, when he saw Nanzi walk behind the herd of sheep on the street, he was flabbergasted again. “Nanzi! Aren't you suppose to be at the bottom of the ocean floor?”

“I was, Your Majesty,” Nanzi replied. But you know what, there is so many things to see down there in the sack! Like this herd of sheep. Seeing that they had no herder, I started walking behind them and gained their trust pretty quickly. At the bottom of the ocean there are so many wonderful things, like diamonds, and bags of gold. Chests of silver and other precious stones,” Nanzi told the king.

“What is that you say?” the king was intrigued. “I want to see it too!”

The king immediately demanded to his soldiers to be put in a sack and be placed in the ocean. Naturally, Shon Arei died because of this. He was never found again. Nanzi followed the soldier back to the castle, where sat once again on the late king's thrown and put his crown on. He took possession of all of Shon Arei's belongings, and lived the rest of his life as king.

Story and pictures are from “Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)” by Nilda Pinto. □





## The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history

(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.

Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was con-

structed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it was enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.



Administration Buildings at Gold

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curaçao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.

Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique

method that involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short life-span: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant. □

Sources: Etnia Nativa & gold-mineranch.com.

## Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names

Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.



### Ayo

Ajo, or Ayo, is a word with Arawak-Indian origin. A (or Ha) is an Indo-Antil-

lean generalizing word. If you were to change a part of the word "Ayo", namely 'Yo', to 'Yu' and make 'Ayu', it would mean "white."

However, as we now know, the name of the neighborhood is 'Ayo'. The word 'Yo' stands for Yocahu, which is another word for 'creator' in Arawak/Taino and in the Papiamentu spoken today, 'Ayo' means 'bye'.

At Ayo, you can find some



of the most well known rock formations. These formations became a well loved and visited attraction at Aruba that is held in high regards by both tourists and locals alike.

If you'd like to know more about the rock formations at Ayo, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all about its location and history.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; A.

### Alto Vista

This word combination can be roughly translated to a 'high point of view' and the neighborhood received

this name from the Hill.

In the surrounding areas, Domingo Antonia Silvestre built his by his own means the very first chapel or church of Aruba. The walls of this church were made with rocks but the roof was made of dry corn stalks. The church was inaugurated by father Pablo Algemesi

If you'd like to know more about the Alto Vista Church's beautiful history, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all you need to know about it for when you visit it.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; AV. □





CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

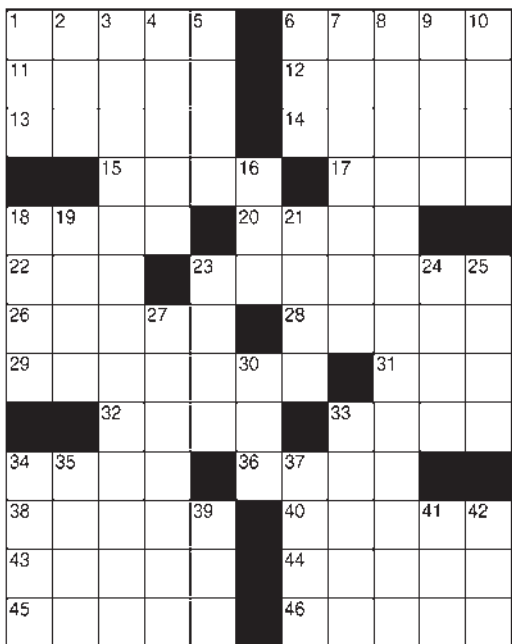
- 1 Metal fasteners  
6 Some bow ties  
11 Lucy's pal  
12 Sore spots  
13 "Keen!"  
14 Guzzled  
15 Poll numbers  
17 Casino numbers  
18 Illegally off base  
20 Timber wolf  
22 Despondent  
23 Distant  
26 Make blank  
28 Make amends  
29 Pivotal  
31 Team supporter  
32 Car scar  
33 Picnic pests  
34 Paul Bunyan's blue ox  
36 Algeria neighbor  
38 Wed in haste  
40 Proper  
43 Road work markers  
44 Sneeze sound

DOWN

- 1 Egg layer  
2 Had supper  
3 Leigh Bardugo fantasy novel  
4 Potpourri bit  
5 Place in a TV lineup  
6 Spot to jot  
7 Circus performer  
8 Deborah Harkness fantasy novel  
9 Watch over  
10 Invites  
16 Imitating  
18 Guinness of film  
19 Had on  
21 Test type  
23 Plant with fronds  
24 Med. sch. subject  
25 Urges  
27 Increase, as an incline  
30 Cash dispenser  
33 Tea party guest  
34 "Loser" singer  
35 Lotion additive  
37 Mecca native  
39 Road curve  
41 Spicy  
42 Gift from Santa



Yesterday's answer



2-2

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-2

CRYPTOQUOTE

R QJRDD VHDRHSH JGUJ DFSH

RQ UDD WFI ZHHX. R XFZ'J

PZFT U VHJJHK LHQQUNH JGUZ

JGUJ. — AUD LBBUKJZHW

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IN FEBRUARY THERE IS EVERYTHING TO HOPE FOR AND NOTHING TO REGRET. — PATIENCE STRONG

Cruise ship Schedule: September 03 - 24 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	03	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00 09.00	20.00 22.00	B C	1 1
WED	04	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	10	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL CELEBRATION CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00 08.00 13.00	21.00 22.00 23.00	B C I	1 1 1
TUE	17	CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	24	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL MAGIC	08.00 09.00	21.00 22.00	B C	1 1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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# Takeaways from AP report on perils of heatstroke for runners in a warming world



Medical worker Timothy Seaman watches as a runner crosses the finish line in the Falmouth Road Race, Sunday, Aug. 18, 2024, in Falmouth, Mass.

Associated Press

By **MICHAEL PHILLIS**  
Associated Press

As climate change reshapes the way humans live outdoors, it's affecting the way they play, too. That includes runners, who may find themselves in harm's way on a warming planet.

They pursue a sport that esteems grit and suffering in pursuit of improvement. Experts told The Associated Press that can be a recipe for heatstroke as the frequency of dangerously hot days in the continental U.S. is expected to grow by roughly one-third by mid-century.

Here are some takeaways from AP's reporting on running, racing and the hazards of heat:

Heatstroke is a dangerous illness associated with extreme heat

Exertional heatstroke happens during exercise when the body can't properly cool, rising above 104 degrees (40 Celsius) and triggering a central nervous system problem such as fainting or blacking out.

Muscles can break down, releasing proteins that damage kidneys. The lining of the digestive system may weaken and leak bacteria. Brain cells may die. It can damage organs and ultimately kill a victim. There's an effective and simple treatment

When runners suffer heatstroke, getting them into a tub of ice water is the best way to quickly cool them. And it needs to happen fast, with quick diagnoses to treat runners on the spot. Medical staff need rectal thermometers to gauge temperature when

skin can be deceptively cool.

Douglas Casa is director of the University of Connecticut's Korey Stringer Institute, named for the Minnesota Vikings lineman who died of heatstroke in training camp in 2001. He's been researching athletes and exertional heatstroke for some three decades. "I can't guarantee everything that is going to happen in the future," Casa said. "But based on over 3,000 cases we've tracked, if someone's temp gets under 104 within 30 minutes of the presentation of heatstroke, no one has ever died."

How are races doing at protecting runners? It's a mixed bag that's typically related to the size of a race and its resources. Casa says many races don't have the resources or expertise to offer the right lifesaving care.

One that does is the Falmouth Road Race in Falmouth, Massachusetts, a popular, long-running and big race that's run in August on the shore of Cape Cod. The summer setting and the 7-mile distance make Falmouth a magnet for heatstroke it's just long enough for runners to really heat up, and short enough that many of them are pushing hard. □

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## Q&A: Author Clare Hammond reveals how railways made and broke Myanmar

By **SAM HARSHBARGER**  
Associated Press

**BANGKOK (AP)** — For three months in 2016, a British journalist working in Myanmar traveled across the Southeast Asian country on trains with a mission to find out where they led, who built them, and why.

Clare Hammond arrived in Myanmar during a period of hope amid a transition to civilian rule, as Aung San Suu Kyi was coming to power after her decades of struggle against military rule.

Hammond recounts her travels in "On the Shadow Tracks: A Journey through Occupied Myanmar," published in June, which began after she came across a map showing a far more extensive railway network than she had anticipated. The rails carried troops and supplies deep into Myanmar's interior, first on behalf of the British and later the Myanmar military. Following these tracks, Hammond uses the railways as a lens to understand the recent troubled history of Myanmar, formerly Burma.

As Hammond confronts Myanmar's successive rulers' records of coerced



An employee steps into a diesel railcar on a railway connecting the Bawdwin mine in Myanmar's Shan State with the nearby town of Namtu in November 2016.

labor, environmental degradation, and repression, she also grapples with the promise and limitations of Myanmar's short period of democratization which the Myanmar military brought to an end when it seized power in February 2021. Now the country is mired in civil war after nonviolent protests against the takeover segued into a nationwide armed resistance.

The Associated Press asked Hammond to explore what her time traveling on Myanmar's trains reveals about the country's past, present and future.

This interview has been edited for clarity and length.

**AP:** Did the railroads achieve the military's goals?

**HAMMOND:** Before they built the railways and the attendant massive military

expansion that took place, many parts of the country were not really controlled by the state.

They were controlled by various different ethnic armed groups, and they weren't really connected to the central Burmese state.

After the railways were built, those parts of the country were tied much more closely to the central

Associated Press

Burmese state. So broadly, in military terms, I think that probably is considered a success.

Obviously, it wasn't successful for the people, who suffered because of it.

**AP:** You write about public memory of how the armed forces became so powerful. How do the railroads come into play?

**HAMMOND:** Yes, it was a strategy. It was no coincidence that the stories that people told me all across the country were so similar to one another.

I think they built these railways purposefully to strengthen themselves. I think the interesting parallel that we could make with what the British did as well was that there was this kind of element of deception of propaganda.

In all official documents and media reports and so on, they talked about how what they were doing was for the people.

It was to develop the nation. It was to bring in modernity. It would help rural people bring their produce to market. That's what a lot of the British railway reports focused on as well: the local economy. □

## Could Oasis reunion come early? Saudi boxing promoter wants Liam and Noel together at Sept. 21 bout



Liam Gallagher performs at the Reading Music Festival, England on Aug. 29, 2021, left, and Noel Gallagher performs at the Glastonbury Festival in Worthy Farm, Somerset, England, on June 25, 2022.

Associated Press

By **STEVE DOUGLAS**  
AP Sports Writer

The Oasis reunion could come earlier than expected.

The Britpop-era band ended a 15-year hiatus last week by announcing a tour of the British Isles next summer, with 17 gigs selling out on Saturday following a scramble for tickets by Oasis fans.

However, Liam and Noel Gallagher, the once-feuding brothers who are the face of Oasis, could be on the stage together way before then if a Saudi boxing promoter gets his own way.

Liam is slated to perform some hits at Wembley Stadium in London on Sept. 21 ahead of the world heavyweight title fight between Anthony Joshua and Daniel Dubois, when more than 90,000 spectators are set to attend.

Turki Alalshikh, the Saudi advisor who organizes boxing events for the kingdom, said Monday he wants Noel to be at Wembley,

too.

"It will be something amazing if we get them together," the chairman of Saudi Arabia's General Entertainment Authority said in an interview with British radio station talkSPORT. "We will try, we will try. Why not?"

Oasis' representatives didn't immediately respond when contacted by The Associated Press.

Oil-rich Saudi Arabia has become a major player in sports, enticing top soccer players like Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar to the kingdom, setting up a breakaway golf series, and also being the host to many high-profile boxing fights by offering lucrative purses.

Online ticket sites strained under demand for Oasis' first shows for 15 years, with prices starting at about 74 pounds (just under \$100) and rising to a 506-pound (\$666) package that includes a pre-show party and merchandise. All tickets sold out. □



## U.S. Open: Jessica Pegula reaches her 7th Grand Slam quarterfinal. She is 0-6 at that stage so far

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

AP Tennis Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Jessica Pegula is back in the quarterfinals at the U.S. Open after a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Diana Shnaider on Monday, her seventh trip to that round at a Grand Slam tournament. Now comes the hard part: Pegula is 0-6 in major quarterfinals over her career.

The No. 6-seeded Pegula, an American whose parents own the NFL's Buffalo Bills and NHL's Buffalo Sabres, is on quite a run at the moment, having won 13 of her past 14 matches, all on hard courts. That included her second consecutive title in Canada and an appearance in the final at the Cincinnati Open, where she lost to No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka.

"I feel like there's been more pressure this year, because I did so well coming into this tournament," the 30-year-old Pegula said. "I want to keep working my way and hopefully bringing my best tennis for the later rounds this time."

Also returning to the quarterfinals was Karolina Muchova, a 6-3, 6-3 winner over No. 5 Jasmine Paolini, the runner-up at the French Open and Wimbledon this season. Muchova enjoyed a breakthrough 2023, getting to the final in Paris and



**Jessica Pegula, of the United States, returns a shot during a match against Daria Snigur, of Ukraine, in the fourth round of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Monday, Sept. 2, 2024, in New York.**

Associated Press

the semifinals in New York, before needing surgery on her right wrist in October, sidelining her for 10 months. "This was my worst and most serious injury, I would say. But, I mean, I love the sport, so in my head, I was like, 'I will do everything I could to (get) better and try.' And here I am today," said Muchova, whose U.S. Open ended a year ago with a loss to eventual champion Coco Gauff. "I'm just a really happy kid now." Gauff was seeded

No. 3 this year and was eliminated Sunday by No. 13 Emma Navarro. In men's action Monday, No. 25 Jack Draper became the first British man to reach the quarterfinals in New York since the recently retired Andy Murray did it in 2016. Draper, who exited in the fourth round a year ago, will appear in his first Slam quarterfinal thanks to a 6-3, 6-1, 6-2 win against unseeded Tomas Machac. "I obviously miss Andy. Shoutout to Andy. What an

unbelievable career the guy's had. Just an icon of the game. I miss him in the change rooms. I miss being next to his stinky shoes and all his stinky clothes," said Draper, who'll take on No. 10 Alex de Minaur or Jordan Thompson, two Australians scheduled to play each other Monday. "Andy's a legend, and if I have half the career he had, then I'll be a happy man." Pegula made it to the quarterfinals at Flushing Meadows two years ago, before

losing to No. 1 Iga Swiatek, who went on to win one of her five major championships. There could be another meeting against Swiatek looming: Pegula next faces the winner of Monday night's match between Swiatek and No. 16 Liudmila Samsonova.

Three of Pegula's six quarterfinal exits at Slams came against a No. 1 player Swiatek twice and Ash Barty once.

Asked during her on-court interview in Arthur Ashe Stadium what she needs to do to get to the semifinals this time, Pegula joked: "I always say I just need to win the match to get to the semis, and then that'll solve everything, right?"

She continued: "Listen, it doesn't really matter to me. I mean, every match is every match. I've always played it like that. It just so happens to be (the) quarterfinals, but at the same time, to be able to say I've been in that position many, many times is great. So I just have to keep putting myself there and keep trying to play my game."

That game worked quite well against the 18th-seeded Shnaider, a 20-year-old Russian who played one season of college tennis at NC State and won a silver medal in women's doubles at the Paris Olympics. □

## U.S. Open action is delayed when a fire alarm shuts down the electronic line-calling system

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Play in 2021 champion Daniil Medvedev's U.S. Open match in Arthur Ashe Stadium and at all contests on other courts, too, was delayed for six minutes Monday when the tournament's electronic line-calling system stopped working because the building where it's housed was evacuated due to a fire alarm.

"Following the determination that this was only an alarm, play was resumed," the U.S. Tennis Association said in a statement explaining the delay.

Medvedev took the first two sets against Nuno Borges and they were at 2-1 in the third set of their fourth-round match when chair umpire Nacho Forcadell told them they needed to stop.

"Ladies and gentlemen, due to a technical difficulty with the electronic line-calling system, we have paused the match," Forcadell announced to the crowd in Ashe.

Medvedev wound up finishing off his 6-0, 6-1, 6-3 victory.

A similar scene happened across the way at Louis Armstrong Stadium, where Beatriz Haddad Maia was serving for the first set of her match against 2018 Australian Open champion Caroline Wozniacki when chair umpire Marijana Veljovic informed the players, then the spectators, there was a glitch with the automatic system that makes in and out line calls.

There were a total of 15 matches in progress at the time. Eventually, all resumed. □



**Daniil Medvedev, of Russia, serves during a match against Nuno Borges, of Portugal, in the fourth round of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Monday, Sept. 2, 2024, in New York.**

Associated Press



# Patrick Mahomes wants better start for Chiefs, more Week 1 magic when Ravens visit Thursday night

By **DAVE SKRETTA**

AP Sports Writer

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) —**

The Kansas City Chiefs insist that they are not thinking about last year's opener against Detroit, when they celebrated their latest Super Bowl triumph with a flag-raising ceremony and were promptly beaten by the Lions.

Patrick Mahomes is chief among them.

The three-time Super Bowl MVP had by far the worst Week 1 performance of his career that night, completing barely more than 50% of his passes for just 226 yards with his fewest touchdown passes (two) and first interception in six season openers.

Makes sense that Mahomes has tried to wash away his memory of the Lions with the Ravens awaiting him Thursday night.

"I don't think last year's too much on your mind," Mahomes said. "You're so focused on trying to get better, and we're playing the best of the best Week 1. We're going to see where we're at. We're going to have to go out there and play our best football early in the season. All we can do is go out there and be our best."

That is more the norm for Mahomes in Week 1 the



**Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes celebrates on the sidelines during the first half of an NFL preseason football game against the Chicago Bears Thursday, Aug. 22, 2024, in Kansas City, Mo.**

best of his best and it is an exceedingly high bar. He had never lost a season opener until running into Detroit, winning his first five as the starting quarterback in Kansas City. He had completed at least 75% of his passes in four of those games, averaged 308 yards and thrown for 18 TD passes without a pick.

He was just 21 of 39 for 226 yards in the 21-20 loss to the Lions. "You don't want to get pushed around. I think that's the biggest thing," Mahomes said of Week 1

games, and playing the Ravens in particular. "Whenever you play teams like this, you want to make sure you match their physicality. We're fast, and we've got guys that run around, but we pride ourselves on being physical as well, so it's going to be a great challenge, man."

Something else that Mahomes tries not to think about: his place in history. He's completed more passes for more yards and more touchdown passes than any quarterback

in NFL history though 96 starts, and every game he seems to climb another historical chart. One big step will likely come Thursday night, when Mahomes with 28,424 yards passing needs just 84 to pass Hall of Famer Len Dawson for the career franchise record.

"It's a little bit different game now with the passing the way it is," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said, "but he has so much respect for Len before Len passed. They had a relationship there. They talked. The game's just it's

a little different. There's just a little bit more passing that goes on now. At the college all levels really, you start at the little kid's level and on up through high school and college, and the ball is being thrown more. It's a compliment to Pat because he does it the right way.

"As great as he is," Reid said, "he's a humble guy and respects the things that happened before him. He gets it."

Mahomes tends to rise to the occasion, the bigger the game the bigger his performance. It's a big reason why the two-time NFL MVP has led the Chiefs to six consecutive AFC championship games, reached four Super Bowls and won three of them.

That includes this past season, when the Chiefs had to beat the Ravens on the road to win their latest conference title.

And while nobody mistakes Week 1 for the playoffs, the spotlight nevertheless shines a little more brightly than typical games.

The Chiefs will once again raise a championship banner Thursday night, and the eyes of the NFL will fall squarely on Arrowhead Stadium for the game that raises the curtain on the regular season. □

Associated Press

# Star right fielder Fernando Tatis Jr. is back with the Padres as they push for a playoff spot

By **BERNIE WILSON**

AP Sports Writer

**SAN DIEGO (AP) —**

Star right fielder Fernando Tatis Jr. was activated Monday by the San Diego Padres after being sidelined for more than two months with a stress reaction in his right thighbone.

Tatis was set to bat second in the opener of a three-game series against the Detroit Tigers. The Padres entered the day in a virtual tie with Arizona for the NL's top wild card.

Tatis last played on June 21. He was put on the injured

list on June 24, retroactive to June 22.

He spent last week working out at the team's spring training complex in Arizona. Tatis received a warm welcome in the clubhouse, including an emphatic hug with center fielder Jackson Merrill, considered by some to be the leading contender for NL Rookie of the Year. "I'm in a really good place right now," Tatis said. "I feel like I can do anything out there on the baseball field." On the day he was placed on the IL, Tatis said he had been dealing with the inju-

ry for essentially the whole season. It was first described as a quadriceps injury, but the team discovered the stress reaction after imaging. Tatis won the NL Gold Glove and Platinum Glove awards last year in his first season in right field.

He was an All-Star at shortstop in 2021 before missing the 2022 season due to injury and a PED suspension. Tatis was hitting .279 with 14 home runs and 36 RBIs when he went on the IL. Outfielder Bryce Johnson was optioned to Triple-A El Paso. □



**San Diego Padres's Fernando Tatis Jr. smiles in the dugout during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the New York Mets, Friday, Aug. 23, 2024, in San Diego.**

Associated Press